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MAN IN THE NEWS

New Head of the CIA

WASHINGTON — (AP)

A stocky, red-haired retired vice admiral is the new head of the nation's super-secret Central Intelligence Agency. And in the words of a former, fellow admiral, "the President got quite a guy."

He is 59-year-old William F. Raborn Jr., Texas born, Oklahoma reared; at home in a Navy fighter plane cockpit, on the quarterdeck, or in the laboratories where he bossed the development of the nuclear Polaris missile system.

Red's the kind of guy who won't be distracted by non-essential detail," said an ex-shipmate, a retired four star admiral. "He's a guy who drives himself and who's one of those lucky fellows who commands respect and makes you want to do your best."

Shipmates know "Red" Raborn as a man with a merry sense of humor, a no-nonsense attitude about any job to be done

and who just won't admit there's any such phrase as "can't be done." His rows of medals attest to that. Raborn was graduated from the Naval Academy in 1928.

"Some folks wonder how I ever picked the Navy when I didn't know there was that much water in the world," Raborn once quipped on a visit back to his boyhood state.

Raborn switched from surface ships to flying and won his wings as a naval aviator in 1934. During World War II, he commanded the Navy Aviation Gunnery School on Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, and then served as executive officer of the USS Hancock in the war's final punch against Japan.

After commanding a task force and serving in Naval Headquarters in Washington on various tours, Raborn took command of the USS Bennington. In a series of explosions that rocked the ship off Newport on May

26, 1954, 220 men died. An official commendation credited him with "saving many lives."

Later, tabbed to head the navy's special project office, Raborn was given the task of developing the Polaris as a missile capable of being launched from a submarine while submerged.

Raborn served as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations before retiring and becoming a vice president with Aerojet General Corp., in Pasadena.

President Johnson, in appointing Raborn to succeed John A. McCone as chief of CIA, described him as a friend of 15 years.

As head of the CIA, Raborn will boss a huge complex about which relatively little is publicly known. What is known is that it includes a far-flung network of intelligence and has as a prime mission the task of making sure the president is fully informed on every facet in which the nation is involved or interested.